

THE RUTHERFORD *Report*

THE NEWSLETTER OF SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR JANICE RUTHERFORD

Summer 2016



Volunteers help restore a trail in the North Etiwanda Preserve during one of the regular cleanup events organized by the County Department of Special Districts.

A vote is like a rifle; it's usefulness depends on the character of the user.

—Theodore Roosevelt

Preserve Protects Critters, Educates Visitors

It started with a 763-acre chunk of undeveloped land at the southern base of the San Gabriel Mountains speckled with boulders, covered in shrubs, and teeming with critters.

It was 1998, and construction on the 210 freeway extension (then known as State Route 30) was getting underway.

San Bernardino Associated Governments—the County's regional transportation agency—was required to make up for the impacts of the freeway construction by purchasing and preserving Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub (RAFSS) habitat similar to what would be gobbled up by the new freeway.

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Former Teacher Crafts Gifts for Children



Dana Johnson has always enjoyed making things.

As a second grade teacher at Fontana Christian School, she and her students made log cabins out of milk containers and baby dolls out of socks. They designed t-shirts and did all the “silly, dumb, hokey stuff” that some mainstream teachers scoffed at.

“If you make it interesting and fun to learn, a child will learn and they will be excited about learning,” Dana said. “I

loved my little kids, and we always did special things together.”

A serious spinal injury forced Dana into early retirement and continues to plague the 73-year-old's health, but it hasn't stopped her from knitting and crocheting scores of trinkets and clothing for underprivileged children in her community over the years.

Originally, she made embroidered baby blankets, baby doll accessories, and other items for the Spark of Love Toy Drive every Christmas, but she later began donating her hand-made wares to the Children's Fund. She was

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This would help ensure the preservation of habitat for a host of state and federally listed endangered, threatened or sensitive plants and animals including the California gnatcatcher, Least Bell's vireo, Los Angeles pocket mouse, Plummer's mariposa lily, Parry's spineflower, Bell's sage sparrow, Rufous-crowned sparrow, and the San Diego horned lizard.

The San Bernardino County Department of Special Districts' County Service Area 120 (CSA 120) assumed management of the 763 acres (now known as the North Etiwanda Preserve), but it was difficult to effectively police the massive swath of open space in the beginning. Off-road vehicles and mountain bikes were a near constant presence even though they were outlawed in the preserve because they caused erosion and had other harmful effects on the sensitive habitat.

Over the next decade, CSA 120 added an additional 440 acres of mitigation land to the Preserve, boosting its size to about 1,200 acres and more than doubling the endowment fund utilized to preserve and protect the area, bringing the total to just under \$1.6 million.

It also developed a management strategy for the Preserve, which continued to be impacted by off-roading, trash dumping, shooting and other prohibited activities.

The idea behind the strategy was simple. Create a 3-mile loop trail through the preserve along with various displays and amenities to educate visitors about the importance of preserving the open space. Those people would help deter prohibited activities by merely being present. The plan also included the strategic placement of gates and natural barriers to prevent off-road vehicles from entering.

"Nowadays, we see virtually no vehicle intrusions in the Preserve," said Erin Opliger, a District Services Coordinator for Special Districts.

Over the years, Special Districts has recruited a team of volunteers to help maintain and protect the Preserve. One person may take responsibility for cleaning the restroom,



Volunteer Gary Mumaw captured this photo of the San Gabriel Mountains from the North Etiwanda Preserve after a winter storm in January 2010.

while another may find value in restoring the trails. The program lets volunteers explore their areas of passion.

"It may seem odd, but I have one very dedicated individual who loathes the sight of trash on the trail," Opliger said. "So to combat that problem, he's up there almost every day picking up litter and talking to visitors about the importance of the 'pack it in, pack it out' ideal."

In addition, Special Districts organizes quarterly cleanups that attract scores of conscientious hikers, Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops, and other groups who help pick up trash, restore trails and remove invasive plants from the Preserve.

Unbeknownst to some, the Preserve serves as an outdoor classroom for local schools K-12 multiple times per week throughout the school year. The educational program—which is run in partnership with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District—provides students with the opportunity to bring State learning objectives out of the classroom and into the direct hands of these little scientists. The kids use the same scientific equipment field biologists use to monitor and identify plants and animals in the Preserve.

The North Etiwanda Preserve is open from sunrise to sunset and is located at the northern terminus of Etiwanda Avenue in Rancho Cucamonga. Visit www.sbcnep.org to learn more.

Mountain School Trains Dancers

When Sharon McCormick and her family moved from Santa Monica to Lake Arrowhead in 1980, Sharon wanted to share her love for dance with the mountain communities by opening a dance school. But first she had to overcome the widely held perception that dancing was just a fun pastime.

“It’s always fun, but everyone’s interpretation of fun is different,” Sharon said. “It took a long time to change people’s way of thinking,”

When the Lake Arrowhead School of Dance started in 1981 in the large annex a Cedar Glen couple had added to their home, Sharon had a hard time convincing clients their children needed to come to class more than once a week. As parents and students discovered what it took to really learn dance, they began to come around to Sharon’s way of thinking.

It took two years before the Lake Arrowhead School of Dance hosted its first performance. After that, the school hosted free performances wherever it could find a free venue. Students performed in the Rim of the World High School cafeteria, a local church’s community center and other spots around the mountain.

“We just hunted everything down just to be able to perform,” Sharon said.

In 1993, Sharon and her dancers took the dance school to a new level with the formation of the Lake Arrowhead Classical Ballet Company.

Since then, the Company has hosted numerous classical, contemporary and original performances for the Rim of the World United School District, the Children’s Cancer Ward at Loma Linda University Medical Center, the Palos Verdes Art Centre, the Palm Springs Playhouse and numerous other venues. The Company’s annual holiday performance of The Nutcracker is its most popular event, and Sharon spares no expense in putting on the production, hiring professional dancers and getting professionally designed sets and lighting.

Sharon could place her students in the classic ballet’s lead roles, but having professional dancers helps keep her young students grounded.

“I want my dancers to know they can do that, but they really have to continue working really hard after they leave me to reach that level,” she said.

Many of her students have gone on to develop dance careers, performing with professional ballet companies, on Broadway and even becoming dance teachers.

Even if they don’t pursue professional dancer careers, students benefit in many ways from the various skills and attributes they develop through dance.

“They are learning something that is going to make them a more developed person when it comes to the presentation of themselves, self-confidence, organizational skills, commitment and comportment” Sharon said.

Visit <http://lakearrowheadschoolofdance.com> to learn more about the Lake Arrowhead School of Dance.

2nd District Trivia

Last Issue’s Answer: Route 66 (Foothill Boulevard) developed from the Santa Fe Trail—a dirt path through the valley in the 1700s.

Question: What Second District community provided ice for the first ice cream parlor in Los Angeles?

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introduced to the organization—which provides resources and services to thousands of abused and disadvantaged children in San Bernardino County every year—when representatives visited her senior living community to ask if residents would help hem blankets for children.

Confined to a chair for much of the day, Dana thoroughly enjoys crafting cloths for children and their dolls and making special items like tea sets complete with plastic bottles of juice, table clothes, napkins and animal crackers.

“I want the children to know that somebody cared about them enough to make something for them,” Dana said. “I know that every item I make has been made with love for a child.”

Dana has multiple projects in the works at any given time, and she takes her gear to her all-too frequent doctor visits so she can work on them while she waits to be seen. When she’s in the hospital, which usually happens a couple of

times a year, she carries her knitting and crocheting supplies with her to occupy her time.

“I keep telling them I’m a professional patient,” she said.

Dana buys a lot of her own supplies by stretching her Social Security check as far as it will go, and she also gets a lot of donated materials from friends and neighbors. All year, she looks forward to Children’s Fund representatives coming to her apartment to collect her homemade knickknacks so they can be distributed to children at Christmastime.

“That’s my life; that’s a whole year of making things,” she said. “It’s full of love, and it gives you such a good feeling. They are going to a child that needs love, and that’s what keeps me going.”

Learn more about the Children’s Fund by visiting <http://www.childrensfundonline.org>.

Upcoming Events

July 2-3	Jamboree Days will take place in the San Bernardino Mountain community of Crestline. The parade starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Fireworks are scheduled to start at 9 p.m. A street faire will take place from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.
July 4	The City of Fontana will host a 4th of July Celebration from 6 to 9 p.m. at Fontana High School. The event will feature live music and will culminate with a 20-minute fireworks show. Tickets cost \$4 for all ages and can be purchased at the Jessie Turner Center, City Hall, Community Services, or the Don Day Center.
July 4	The City of Rancho Cucamonga will host the 4th of July Spectacular from 6 to 9 p.m. at the LoanMart Field at the Rancho Cucamonga Epicenter. Tickets are \$9. Call (909) 477-2752 for more information.
July 4	The City of Upland will host the 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular Celebration from 5 to 9 p.m. at Upland High School. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the gate. Children 2 and under are free. Purchase tickets at the Recreation Division office.
July 18	Residents are invited to comment on the Community Plan for the Crest Forest Communities, which includes Crestline, Cedarapines Park, Lake Gregory and Valley of Enchantment. The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Liesure Shores Senior Center located at 24658 San Moritz Drive. This is the last in a series of public meetings on the Community Plan.
July 19	Residents are invited to comment on the Community Plan for the Crest Forest Communities, which includes Crestline, Cedarapines Park, Lake Gregory and Valley of Enchantment. The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Liesure Shores Senior Center located at 24658 San Moritz Drive. This is the last in a series of public meetings on the Community Plan.
July 20	Residents are invited to comment on the Community Plan for the Lake Arrowhead Communities, which includes Lake Arrowhead, Cedar Glen, Deer Lodge Park, Skyforest, Twin Peaks, Blue Jay, Rimforest and Crest Park. The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Fire Station 91 located at 301 S. Hwy. 173 in Lake Arrowhead. This is the last in a series of public meetings on the Community Plan.
Aug. 5-6	Enjoy good food, music, games and more at the annual Mountain Top Days celebration in downtown Running Springs. The parade takes places Friday at 6:30 p.m. Chili cook-off, farmers market, and other activities start at 10 a.m. on Saturday.
Aug. 6	The Rim of the World Recreation and Park District will host the 37th annual Run Through the Pines from 7 to noon. The Run Through the Pines is one of the oldest running events in San Bernardino County. Participants enjoy a 10k and/or 5k run, Kids Fun Run, or Race Walk around Lake Gregory. Contact the Recreation and Park District Office at info@rim-rec.org or (909) 337-7275 for more information.
Sept. 2	Applications due for Second District Youth Council. Email Stephanie.Rose@bos.sbcounty.gov or call (909) 387-4909 for information.
Sept. 5	The San Antonio Town Hall will host the 51st annual Run-to-the-Top—a grueling trail race to the summit of beautiful Mt. Baldy at 10,064 feet above sea level. Send an email to mbrun2top@gmail.com or visit www.run2top.com for information.

Dates and times are subject to change without notice. Please contact Supervisor Rutherford’s office at (909) 387-4833 if you have any questions or suggestions for the Events Calendar. You can view information about more local events on Supervisor Rutherford’s home page at www.sbcounty.gov/rutherford.